

80 KONICA BLANK TAPES MUST BE WON!

- 40 First prizes of a 3 hour blank tape (VHS or Betamax)
 40 Second prizes of a 2 hour blank tape (VHS or Betamax)
 20 Third prizes of a year's subscription to WHICH VIDEO?

Enter Our Free Competition, and you could win yourself a high quality blank tape from KONICA.

With 100 winners to find, almost everyone stands a chance of a prize, so rush out for a bottle of Quink, flush out the Osmiroid 66, and you're away.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

To win one of these fabulous high performance tapes or 12 free issues of Which Video?, simply answer the questions below, and complete the little phrase at the end in not more than 12 words, with a view to making us smile, if not slap our thighs with uproarious laughter.

Put your answers on a postcard, like the one shown below, include your choice of format, your name and address and then post it to WHICH VIDEO? Argus Specialist Publications, 145 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 0EE.

If you think that the questions look too hard, don't give up! All of them can be answered if you read through the magazine. All you have to do is start reading! Easy isn't it.

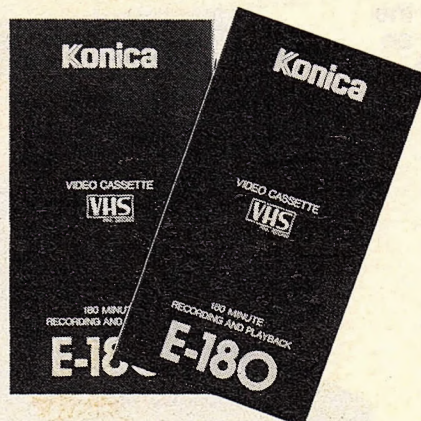
KONICA — A BIT OF BACKGROUND

Konica aren't a new name within the video industry, though they may be to you. Most people will know the name from still cameras, though the really up to date will remember the new mini video cameras that should be hitting our shores soon.

Konica's entry into the video tape world has been achieved in association with Ampex whose name is already highly regarded amongst professional users. The blank tapes use a special formula of cobalt and ferric magnetic material. Of course the coating is only as good as the binder that holds it to the backing and Konica's unique (and secret) process maintains an even coating over the tough non-stretch base. Add to all that the high mirror finish to cut down wear on both video heads and tape, and the result is long life video tape that gives accurate reproduction of both colour and sound over and over again.

Konica produce their tape in the full range of lengths. The one hour

tapes are particularly suited to portables when you are out and about with your camera. For extended home use, or perhaps to edit your final features onto, there is the two hour tape. This can also be used for archiving television programmes such as documentaries or educational broadcasts. The three hour tape is almost purpose built for the feature film, which can be readily stored, and perhaps a short added to the end if possible.



THE RULES

1. This competition is open to all readers of Which Video? provided that they are not employees of any Argus Press company, Konishiroku (UK) Ltd, Henry Garnett and Co. Ltd, or who've just picked this up in the dentist's waiting room.

2. All entries must be submitted on a postcard, laid out as shown, with the answers clearly marked. Also included should be your name and address, and your format

preference, should you be a lucky winner. Only one entry per household.

3. The editors decision is final and absolute, and he certainly won't be swayed by correspondence offering money / free holidays / bodies / physical violence.

4. The closing date for all entries is August 12th. Any entries received after the second post on that day will be disqualified from the competition, so post early!

THE QUESTIONS

1. On a Betamax cassette, how many minutes of recording time can be obtained from an L500 tape?

- A) 92 minutes B) 120 minutes C) 500 minutes

2. What is the maximum playing time that can be obtained from a 'Dual Speed' video recorder using VHS tape?

- A) 3½ hours B) 4½ hours C) 6 hours

3. Konica's name will also have been seen on:

- A) Cameras B) Cars C) Washing Machines

4. Which tape length from the Konica range is most suited to portable recording, with a camera?

- A) 3hr B) 2hr C) 1hr

5. One of the specific ingredients used in Konica tape is

- A) Sticky back plastic B) Cobalt C) Rubber

Complete the following in not more than twelve words

'I'd use Konica tape in my machine because

FROM
 Mrs J. Bloggs.
 69, Nowhere Street,
 San Fernando,
 Devon.
 (San Fernando 3214)

1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____
 4 _____
 5 _____
 6 _____

I'd use Konica tape
 in my machine
 Because: _____

CHOOSING A HI-TECH TV

Thinking of updating your box in the corner. Anxious to find a way through the mass of new gimmicks and gadgetry on the TV screen? We offer you a helping hand.

Do you shudder every time you look at the corner of your living room? Does the antiquated old set perched on top of your shiny new video recorder look like one of Baird's earlier efforts? If the answer is yes, then perhaps the time has come to invest some of your hard-earned cash in one of the new technological marvels on offer from the major TV manufacturers.

Gone are the days when the TV was used solely for watching whatever efforts the Beeb and ITV cared to churn out. Now it is part of a far wider range of entertainment via home computers, video games, video tapes and teletext. But looking at the range of sets now available, it is little wonder that people find themselves confused by the mass of new gadgetry and technical innovations.

It is important to decide exactly what your new TV is going to be used for. If it is to be the main set in the home, then you would probably need to look for some or all of the following features: full function remote control, teletext, stereo sound and direct audio/video connections. Or of course, you could really go to town and invest in a component TV system — television's equivalent of hi-fi separates.

One of the factors that many people overlook is the number of pre-set buttons their new set should have. Most colour televisions have eight. This sounds enough, but



remember we now have four channels. If in addition you own a video recorder and a TV games machine, this only leaves you with two. Although video disc players have not been outstandingly successful in this country, most people who have bought or rented one will probably also have a video recorder. If they own a home computer as well, no more buttons. Those who are fortunate to live on the borders of two or more TV regions may have access to six or even eight stations. If in addition they have videos, TV games and computers, they will be forced to

constantly retune their sets if they want to take advantage of their geographical location — unless they have a large number of pre-set buttons on their sets.

One solution to this problem is of course a second set. A large increase in the sale of portables has been generated by the advent of the video recorder and the Fourth Channel, and what better way to keep up with the change in TV-AM

presenters? For portable video enthusiasts there is the advantage of being able to judge on site any change in colour that the camera is registering.

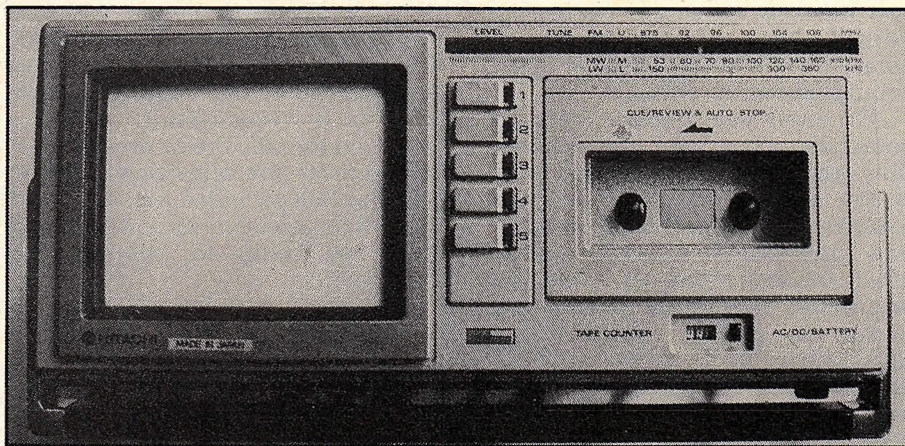
When choosing a portable the same sort of considerations apply as for the main set. However there are several unique features to take into account. The ability to run from batteries (usually a 12 volt car battery) as well as from the mains is common in black and white portables, but less so with colour sets. It would be daft to shell out a lot of money for this facility in a colour portable if you don't intend to take it out of the home. But it's equally as stupid not to buy a black and white set that can run off batteries, if it adds little or nothing onto the cost.

Sony have succeeded in making a product that has so far eluded most manufacturers — a truly pocketable TV. Despite its 2" screen, the Watchman gives a remarkably good picture. Now on sale in this country, it is regarded by many as simply a gimmick, but at £250, amusement certainly doesn't come cheap.

Once you have decided on a particular model, don't forget the old bugbear of after-sales service. Normally this consists of a one year guarantee covering parts and labour. Some companies offer much more, others get away with much less. Look out too for free home trials and money back satisfaction guarantees.

Finally, there is little point running your wonderful new TV from an inadequate aerial system. For improved reception, companies such as Antiference offer helpful advice along with a vast selection of aerials. Prices range from £9—£46 plus installation costs.

Above: The complete Sony Profeel system with C7 recorder
Right: Pocket TV from the Sony Watchman



Picture Quality

So what exactly constitutes a good picture? Everyone has their own ideas on the subjects — one man's clarity is another's blur. Neither is judgement helped by the atmosphere in a crowded shop on a Saturday morning with the kids moaning to go home. However, try to look for a clear, sharp picture and good contrast between the lighter and darker tones. One way to check for realistic colour reproduction is to put your hand up to the screen and check that the skin tone matches that of the people on the screen.

Tempting as it may be, especially if you have a large living room, to opt for a 26" or 27" screen, you may end up by being disappointed with the resulting picture quality. A television picture is made up of 625 lines. In a 22" set, these lines are too small to be seen at normal viewing distance. Blow the picture up and you increase the size of the lines thereby reducing the sharpness.

All the video recorders modify their output signals so you can connect them up via the aerial socket to the TV. In those sets with direct audio and video inputs, the recorder, TV and hi-fi system can be linked together without using the TV's aerial socket, resulting in better picture quality. The reason for this is simple. The signals passed from a video recorder through an aerial lead have first to be converted to RF (radio frequency). At the television set, they are reconverted to separate audio and video signals. Cut out this conversion and reversion by using audio/video sockets, and the signals stay strong and unaffected by interference. Among the sets with this facility are the Salora IHG and the Sony KV2052. Both retail at around £500, but the feature does exist on cheaper models.

Various experimental broadcasts have already demonstrated the possibility of 3D television and now Nordmende have developed the 'abdy' 3D colour module, a simple plug-in unit that has already

been incorporated in a selection of their televisions. If you are an existing owner of one of their models, the unit can be fitted by an engineer for £25 plus labour. To obtain the effect, you need to wear special glasses, with one lens tinted red and the other green (4 pairs are supplied), which although they give the extra dimension to the picture, also render it black and white.

For a really noticeable improvement in picture quality, it may be worth while investing in a monitor. This isn't a TV, but rather a TV screen without a tuner. It will simply display whatever signal is fed into it. With a normal television, the tuner takes the signal from the aerial and feeds it in understandable form to the screen part. The absence of a tuner means that it is possible to feed signals from a disc/tape player direct, resulting in a greatly improved picture quality.

Don't be fooled into thinking that monitor 'style' TV sets will give you the same performance. These are simply televisions with their own tuners, built to look like a studio monitor.

Sound Quality

One of the most recent ideas in television design has been stereo. At present there are no stereo broadcasts, except on an experimental basis. A stereo TV is simply a standard TV with an extra audio channel. 'Spatial' sound is slightly different. The signal is again split into two, but while one emerges normally through one speaker, the other is slightly delayed by extra circuitry, thereby giving the sound more depth by arriving in your ear slightly later than the first signal.

Stereo sound TVs only operate to the full when used with a video disc player and a stereo sound disc or with a stereo sound recorder and a stereo pre-recorded tape. So I hear you say, what is the point in spending extra for this facility? The answer is that stereo TVs are usually at the top end of the manufacturer's range, thus incorporating the latest designs,



and even mono sound comes out better through two speakers, especially if it is processed to give a simulated stereo effect.

On some sets the speakers are detachable, but with the majority they are built in. The Grundig 8600 is the stereo version of the well established 7600, but instead of one duo-sound speaker system down one side of the set, it has two, one either side of the screen. The price is £550. With their Stereosonic 2401, priced at £630, Nordmende have solved the problem of speakers by putting them on hinges and using them as a sort of door. There is also a third speaker fitted into the TV pedestal to provide the bass notes. As an added extra, it also includes a one day, two event timer and digital clock.

Although the sound from these and other stereo sets will be adequate, it is no substitute for a proper pair of hi-fi speakers. Provided the set has separate speaker sockets, these can be easily connected.

Component Television

The coming of home video recorders and computers has given the TV a far more active role to play. At some time in the future, the TV as we know it will be replaced by the domestic monitor which will show pictures from any source, not just from the TV aerial. Thus the Sony Profeel and the Philips' Audivision introduced last year, rather than being one-offs, are set to become standard pieces of equipment in the home of the future.

The easiest way to think of component television is to use the comparison of a radiogram and an audio hi-fi system. Rather than having several bits in one box, you have several bits in several boxes. If television technology moves on, or if you find you have more money to spend, the cost of replacing the TV or hi-fi is less because you can replace as many or as few of the units as you like when you like. No matter how fast technology changes, you will be able to keep pace, and without going bankrupt in the process. Similarly, should you move from the UK to the US, you need only replace the tuner and not the whole system, and if your hi-fi amplifier and speakers are adequate, you needn't waste money buying separate ones for the TV.

The Philips' Audivision consists of a 20" monitor complete with teletext tuner and speakers. Even for £699, to make it work you also need to add either an audio amplifier (your own hi-fi) or active loudspeakers (speakers with a built-in amplifier). Its overall appearance

is very like the studio monitor equipment it is designed to emulate. The tuner includes both spatial and stereo buttons, really in anticipation of future broadcasting developments in the UK. The remote control will operate the television, teletext and the Philips' video recorder, and even has provision for hi-fi control. Just the thing to impress the neighbours.

Like the Audivision, the Sony Profeel consists of a 20" monitor — a version of the popular Trinitron tube — plus tuner and speakers. Unlike the Audivision, its teletext adaptor is separate and the monitor has its own built-in audio amplifiers. It also has PAL/SECAM/NTSC playback facility, enabling you to play back continental pre-recorded tapes. The price of the monitor and tuner are £798, and the teletext unit and speakers will set you back another £120 and £50 respectively. Sony have recently made available a Prestel unit at £350 and a 27" monitor at £699.95.

Not surprisingly, the sound and picture quality of both systems are excellent, but then they don't exactly come cheap. Other companies are expected to jump on the bandwagon soon, and no doubt the price of component television will reduce accordingly.

Teletext and Prestel

Despite the vast increase in use, the difference between teletext and Prestel is still the subject of great confusion for many people.

Teletext is the general term for a broadcast free service providing

Teletext can be found on most sizes of TV, like the 20" and 14" Philips. Not just useful but fun to use too!

news, weather and a variety of magazine-type entertainment. The TV set can only decode this signal if it is equipped with an appropriate decoder. The ITV calls its service Oracle; the BBC calls its service Ceefax. Depending on the screen size, a built-in teletext facility will put between £60—£100 onto the cost of a basic colour set.

The system has its flaws. There is often a long wait between selecting a page and its appearing on the screen, and you cannot change channels whilst in the teletext mode. However most people who have the facility soon find it indispensable.

Prestel is a service offered by British Telecom, sent down normal telephone lines to specially equipped TV sets. The decoder has to be installed by a telephone engineer. Unlike teletext, it isn't free. You have to pay telephone charges and in some cases a levy to the provider of the information. It can be two way, allowing such things as shopping or choosing a holiday from the comfort of your armchair.

Some modern television sets can be converted to teletext and Prestel by the addition of a single panel within the set at a later date. Ayr Viewdata provide the T11 teletext adaptor priced at £149.95 including VAT; and the P1 Prestel adaptor priced at £199. Both prices are inclusive of labour. Taking into account the comparatively low cost of a built-in teletext set, it is obvious that if you can afford it at the time, it makes more sense to buy a teletext set rather than planning to convert your new TV set later on.

Obsolescence

We hear so much about future developments in TV technology that you could be forgiven for thinking that any model you buy within the



next fortnight will automatically be rendered obsolete by the end of the year. As standard we will soon have remote control responding to the spoken command, as well as cable and satellite broadcasts. However, it is important to realise that hi-definition/flat screen/satellite/cable TV all take time to appear, and there is little chance that any new set you buy now will have to be junked for a good few years yet. If you are still worried, the short answer is to rent, or invest in a component television.

Either way, getting square eyes is definitely going to be more fun with your new hi-tech TV.